Government based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers and after consultations with the Central Ministries and Departments and the States, provides for asset reforms to ensure that every farmer household in villages possesses and/or has access to productive assets like land, livestock, fish pond, homestead farm and/or income through an enterprise or market driven skills, so that the household income is increased substantially which, in turn, would ensure nutrition and livelihood security and their education and health requirements.

(c) to (e) As per the Agriculture Census 2000-01, the estimated number of landless operational holders cultivating "wholly leased-in" land and "wholly otherwise" operated land in the country was 6,60,991 (excluding the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Meghalaya). Programmes for distribution of ceiling surplus land. Government wastelands and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor are being implemented by the States. As per information received from the States, 49.62 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 55.17 lakh beneficiaries of whom 39% belong to the Scheduled Castes and 15% to the Scheduled Tribes. 153.22 lakh acres of Government wastelands and 16.67 lakh acres of Bhoodan land have been distributed to the eligible rural poor. In addition to the above, the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 also provides for a comprehensive national social security scheme covering farmers including landless agricultural workers. Various programmes launched by the Government in this regard include the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act 2008, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2006, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Aadmi Bima Vojana, National Old Age Pension Scheme, etc.

"Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" in Rajasthan

563. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned and spent under "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" in Rajasthan;

(b) the total storage capacity created, godowns set-up, under the scheme;

(c) whether the above capacity can be considered as adequate for Rajasthan which has the largest area in the country; and

(d) whether sanction of additional funds to Rajasthan, is in the offing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) This Ministry is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2001 through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and National Cooperative Development Corporation. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 1051.55 lakh has been released as subsidy for the projects sanctioned in Rajasthan upto 31st December, 2008.

(b) 663 Rural Godown Projects with a capacity of 488136 MTs have been sanctioned in the State upto 31st December, 2008.

(c) and (d) The Central Sector Scheme of "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" is a demand driven credit linked scheme. As per the guidelines of the Scheme, the entrepreneur is free to set up a

project under the scheme according to his choice anywhere in the country depending upon the economic viability of the project. However, there is a ceiling of creation of 18.00 lakh MTs storage capacity in a State under the scheme. Hence the entrepreneurs of Rajasthan can avail of the benefit of the back ended subsidy under the Scheme as per the guidelines.

Multi crore scam over relief package for farmers in Vidarbha

564. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scam over the relief package to help the bereaved families of the farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha region has come to the notice of Government;

(b) what are the eligibility criteria for getting the relief fixed by Government; and

(c) the details of the multi crore scam with names of persons/officers involved in the scam and action taken/being taken against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No report about scam over the relief package to help the bereaved families of the farmers who committed suicide in Vidarbha region has been reported by the Government of Maharashtra. However, there have been some reports from certain quarters including the press about incorrect selection of beneficiaries under the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in six suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

(b) The eligibility criteria fixed by the Government of Maharashtra for selection of beneficiaries under subsidiary income component of the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in six suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra are as under:

1. Suicide-affected families.
2. Families/farmers below poverty line.
3. The selected family should not have availed of any subsidy for dairy activity under a government sponsored programme in the last two years.
4. Amount of outstanding debt with the prospective beneficiary.
5. Landless labourers/women beneficiaries to be given priority.
6. Families in clusters so as to facilitate provision of inputs and marketing services.
7. Villages with potential to form milk cooperatives unions/Self Help Groups and linkage with milk routes.

(c) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.V. Gopal Reddy, Director General, Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, Amravati has been constituted by the Government of Maharashtra to enquire into the reports regarding incorrect selection of the beneficiaries under the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in the identified-districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and to ascertain the truth and take action, if necessary.

Plan to formulate high-tech horticulture hub

†565.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.